i) Hunting of all the wild animals except for protection of life and property and for the purposes of research, education and management of population, has been banned under the provisions of Wild Life (Protection) Act. The Wild Life (Protection) Act has been amended suitably to enhance the penalties and punishment for various offences relating to poaching and illegal trade.

ii) International and internal trade in products from rare and endangered species of wildlife has been banned. Regional offices for Wildlife Preservation are involved with regulation and control of trade in wildlife products.

iii) Anti-poaching infrastructure in the states has been strengthened. Government of India provides assistance to State Governments for strengthening the anti-poaching infrastructure under the Centrally sponsored Scheme "Control of Poaching and Illegal Trade in Wildlife".

iv) Co-operation of Border Security Force, Indo-Tibetan Border Police and Army has been sought for conservation of wildlife in border areas.

v) A system of cash rewards has been introduced to get intelligence about poachers.

vi) World Wide Fund for Nature (India) has recently started a wildlife trade monitoring Unit i.e. TRAFFIC INDIA. This will help in minimising illegal trafficking in wildlife products.

Tigers and Panthers Sanctuaries

4224. SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA VARMA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of National Parks and Sanctuaries for the protection of tigers and panthers in the country;

(b) whether the number of tigers and panthers has increased during the last three years in each National Park/Sancturaries; and

(c) the future schemes contemplated for protection of tigers and panthers by the Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) and (b). The information is being collected from the State Governments and will be laid on th Table of the House.

(c) The Centrally sponsored Schemes: 'Project Tiger' and 'Assistance for the development of National Parks and Sanctuaries being continued for the preservation and protection of wildlife reserves where tigers and panthers are found. The new Centrally Sponsored Scheme 'Ecodevelopment around National Parks and Sanctuaries, including Tiger Reserves' which is proposed to be launched during the current financial

year, will also help in better management of these wildlife reserves and their buffer areas through measures which are expected to ameliorate the living conditions of the local villagers, reduce biotic interference and consequently reduce depredation by wild animals in human habitats. Research in the ecology and veterinary aspects of tigers and panthers is also being conducted.

[*Translation*]

Social Forestry Scheme for Rajasthan

4225. SHRI KUNJEE LAL: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the targets fixed under the Social Forestry Scheme in Rajasthan have been achieved during the Seventh Five Year Plan;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) the names of districts in which this scheme had been implemented during the Plan period;

(d) the details of assistance provided to Rajasthan for the work; and -

(e) the targets fixed for the Eighth Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) and (b). In the Seventh Plan period (1985-90), the target and achievement of afforestation/tree planting activities, including social forestry, in Rajasthan under the 20-Point Programme are as given below:-

Target	*Achievement*
(Area in hectares)	
266000	284945

(c) The afforestation/tree planting activities under the 20-Point Programme were carried out during the Seventh Plan period in all the districts of Rajasthan.

(d) The allocation and utilisation of funds for afforestation/tree planting activities in respect of Rajasthan during the Seventh Five Year Plan are as given below:-

Allocation	*Utilisation*
Rs. 119.25 crores	Rs, 147.33 crores

(e) The afforestation/tree planting activities are proposed to be substantially expanded during the Eighth Five Year Plan, which is under finalisation.

[*English*]

Forest Land in Karnataka

4226. SHRI S.B. SIDNAL: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the area of reserved and unreserved forests in Karnataka;

(b) the area of forests illegally deforested during the past two years and the extent upto which the forest land has declined;

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to check deforestation and the measures taken for afforestation in the State; and

(d) the details of amount provided by the